

Message Text

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TAGS: MARR, ID, UK

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA: MISCELLANEOUS UK ACTIVITIES

FCO HAS RECENTLY INFORMED US OF A NUMBER OF MINOR
ACTIVITIES AFFECTING DIEGO GARCIA. SOME REQUIRE ACTION
ON PART OF USG, OTHERS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY.
FOLLOWING ARE ITEMS:

1. WEATHER REPORTING. FCO ADVISES THAT GOVERNMENT OF
MAURITIUS HAS COMPLAINED THAT WEATHER DATA FROM DIEGO
GARCIA IS ARRIVING TOO LATE TO PROVIDE OPTIMUM ASSISTANCE
TO MAURITIAN WEATHER FORECASTING EFFORTS. ACCORDING TO
REPORT FROM GOM, INFO REACHES MAURITIUS ONE TO TWO HOURS
AFTER OBSERVATIONS MADE ON DIEGO. GOM FEELS THAT US/UK/
GOM UNDERSTANDING ON WEATHER DATA CALLS FOR TRANSMISSION
IN ALMOST REAL TIME. PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THIS
POINT.

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2. BILLY BLUE. OWNER OF YACHT BILLY BLUE REQUESTED

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION MOMBASA OFFICE TO SEEK HMG PERMISSION FOR A STOPOVER IN DIEGO BY BILLY BLUE ENROUTE AUSTRALIA. HIGH COMMISSION WAS INSTRUCTED TO INFORM BILLY BLUE SKIPPER THAT VISITS ARE NOT PERMITTED. HIGH COMMISSION DID SO BUT IN FINAL REPORT TO FCO SAID THAT THEY WERE LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT SKIPPER STILL INTENDS TO TRY TO STOP AT DIEGO. BILLY BLUE HAS DEPARTED MOMBASA BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE ON ISLAND HAS BEEN INFORMED. INTERESTING POINT IS THAT SKIPPER AND OTHERS ON YACHT ARE JOURNALISTS AND IN ORIGINAL REQUEST SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO WRITE STORIES ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA INSTALLATION IN ORDER FINANCE JOURNEY TO AUSTRALIA.

3. BIOT ADMINISTRATOR TRAVEL. ADMINISTRATOR C
LIN ALLEN

PLANS TO VISIT CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO (INCLUDING DIEGO GARCIA) ABOUT BIOT SHIP NORDVAER. VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN LATE JANUARY THROUGH MID-FEBRUARY. ALLEN WOULD BE PLEASED HAVE A USG REPRESENTATIVE ON TRIP IF WE DESIRE. TRIP DEPARTS AND RETURNS TO PORT VICTORIA, MAHE. PLEASE ADVISE IF ANY U.S. INTEREST IN TRIP.

4. ROYAL NAVY DANGER ISLAND TRIP. THE ROYAL NAVY IS (JAN. 7-19) MAKING A VISIT TO SOME OF THE ISLANDS IN THE DANGER ISLAND GROUP OF THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO. TRIP IS FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION. HEADQUARTERS OF EXPEDITION IS ON EAGLE ISLAND.
THE RN UNIT DOES NOT PLAN TO CALL AT DIEGO GARCIA IN THE COURSE OF ITS OPERATION. FCO NOTES THAT A BBC CAMERA CREW IS ACCOMPANYING THE EXPEDITION.

5. VISIT BY ENVIRONMENTALIST. DAVID STODDARD, THE SCIENTIST WHO ACCOMPANIED THE INITIAL CB DEPLOYMENT TO DO A REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, HAS ASKED FCO FOR ASSISTANCE IN VISITING THE ISLAND AGAIN TO DO A SIMILAR REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE FACILITY. STODDARD MADE PREVIOUS TRIP AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY. IT IS NOT CLEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHAT HIS SPONSORSHIP WOULD BE FOR PROPOSED SECOND VISIT. STODDARD MENTIONED IN HIS APPROACH TO FCO THAT HE WOULD BE REPRESENTING A J.C. WILSON OF LOS ANGELES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS (FIRM NAME?) IN ADDITION TO HIS BRITISH INTERESTS ON THE VISIT. FCO ASKS IF USG CAN GET ANY INFORMATION ON L.A. CONSULTANTS OR ON WILSON. PLEASE ADVISE.

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